

WHAT IS CLAIMED

1. A shaving blade unit comprising

a plastic housing having a front portion and a rear portion and two side surfaces extending from the front portion to the rear portion, the housing having a length extending from one side surface to the other side surface,

5 one or more shaving blades positioned between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades having a blade length extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes, and

a guard at the front portion of the housing, the guard including an elastomeric member that extends along a guard axis that is parallel to the respective one or more
10 blade axes, the elastomeric member having a length along the guard axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.

2. The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric member extends to the side surfaces of the housing.

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3. The shaving blade unit of claim 2, wherein the elastomeric member extends over the side surfaces of the housing.

4. The shaving blade unit of claim 3, wherein the elastomeric member forms
20 a protrusion extending outwardly from at least one of the side surfaces.

5. The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric member includes an elastomeric fin.

25 6. The shaving blade unit of claim 5, wherein the fin extends along a fin axis that is generally parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the fin having a length along the fin axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.

30 7. The shaving blade unit of claim 5, wherein the fin is made of a material having a Shore A hardness between about 28 and 60.

 8. The shaving blade unit of claim 5, wherein the elastomeric member includes multiple elastomeric fins.

35 9. The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein the fins are arranged in parallel rows, the fins extending along respective fin axes that are parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, at least some of the fins having a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

40 10. The shaving blade unit of claim 9, wherein all of the fins have a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

 11. The shaving blade unit of claim 9, wherein the fins have graduated lengths

45 12. The shaving blade unit of claim 11, wherein the fins closest to the blades have a length that is longer than the blade length, and the fin length decreases as distance from the blades increases

50 13. The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein at least some of the fins have tips having increasing elevation with respect to a plane passing through an associated cutting edge of the one or more shaving blades in going from fins further from the one or more shaving blades to fins closer to the blades.

55 14. The shaving blade unit of claim 13, wherein at least some of the fins have tips above the plane, and some of the fins have tips below the plane.

 15. The shaving blade unit of claim 13, wherein others of the fins have tips of generally uniform position relative to the plane.

60 16. The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein the fins have converging surfaces having an included angle of between about 8 and 14 degrees.

 17. The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein a distance from a first fin to a last fin is between about 2.5 and 6 mm.

65 18. The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein the fins have tips of a height between about 0.4 and 0.9 mm.

 19. The shaving blade unit of claim 8, wherein the elastomeric member
70 includes at least about 10 fins.

 20. The shaving blade unit of claim 19, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 15 fins.

75 21. The shaving blade unit of claim 19, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 20 fins.

 22. The shaving blade unit of claim 1, further comprising a clip for retaining the one or more shaving blades, the clip being threaded through an opening positioned
80 between the front and rear portions of the housing.

 23. The shaving blade unit of claim 22, wherein first and second ends of the clip are threaded through respective first and second openings in the housing.

85 24. The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric member is flexible.

 25. The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein a leading portion of the elastomeric member extends beyond a leading edge of the front portion of the housing in

90 a direction perpendicular to the guard axis and blade axis.

26. The shaving blade unit of claim 25, wherein the leading portion is substantially unsupported along its length

95 27. The shaving blade unit of claim 25, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to deflect upon contact with a user's skin

28. The shaving blade unit of claim 27, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to conform to a contour of the user's skin during shaving

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29. The shaving blade unit of claim 27, wherein the leading portion has a first thickness adjacent the side surfaces of the housing, and tapers to a second, lesser thickness adjacent a center region of the guard

105 30. The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein thickness of the elastomeric member varies along the guard axis.

31. The shaving blade unit of claim 1, wherein the housing is connected to a pivoting structure to permit the one or more blades to pivot with respect to a handle.

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32. The shaving blade unit of claim 1 further comprising a trimming assembly connected to the housing.

115 33. The shaving blade unit of claim 32, wherein the trimming assembly comprises a trimming blade.

34. A shaving blade unit comprising
a plastic housing having a front portion and a rear portion and two side surfaces extending from the front portion to the rear portion, the housing having a length extending from one side surface to the other side surface,

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one or more shaving blades between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades having a blade length extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes, and

125 a guard at the front portion of the housing, the guard including an elastomeric member, the elastomeric member extending over at least one of the side surfaces and along a guard axis that is parallel to the respective one or more blade axes.

130 35. The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric member includes an elastomeric fin.

36. The shaving blade unit of claim 35, wherein the fin extends along a fin axis that is generally parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the fin having a length along the fin axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.

135 37. The shaving blade unit of claim 35, wherein the fin is made of a material having a Shore A hardness between about 28 and 60.

140 38. The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric member includes multiple elastomeric fins.

39. The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein the fins are arranged in parallel rows, the fins extending along respective fin axes that are parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, at least some of the fins having a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

145 40. The shaving blade unit of claim 39, wherein all of the fins have a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

150 41. The shaving blade unit of claim 39, wherein the fins have graduated lengths.

42. The shaving blade unit of claim 41, wherein the fins closest to the blades have a length that is longer than the blade length, and the fin length decreases as distance from the blades increases.

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43. The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein at least some of the fins have tips having increasing elevation with respect to a plane passing through an associated cutting edge of the one or more shaving blades in going from fins further from the one or more shaving blades to fins closer to the blades.

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44. The shaving blade unit of claim 43, wherein at least some of the fins have tips above the plane, and some of the fins have tips below the plane.

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45. The shaving blade unit of claim 44, wherein others of the fins have tips of generally uniform position relative to the plane.

46. The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein the fins have converging surfaces having an included angle of between about 8 and 14 degrees.

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47. The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein a distance from a first fin to a last fin is between about 4 mm.

48. The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein the fins have tips of a height between about 0.4 and 0.9 mm.

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49. The shaving blade unit of claim 38, wherein the elastomeric member includes at least about 10 fins.

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50. The shaving blade unit of claim 49, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 15 fins.

51. The shaving blade unit of claim 49, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 20 fins.

185 52. The shaving blade unit of claim 34, further comprising a clip for retaining the one or more shaving blades, the clip being threaded through an opening positioned between the front and rear portions of the housing.

190 53. The shaving blade unit of claim 52, wherein first and second ends of the clip are threaded through respective first and second openings in the housing.

54. The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric member is flexible.

195 55. The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein a leading portion of the elastomeric member extends beyond a leading edge of the front portion of the housing in a direction perpendicular to the guard axis and blade axis.

200 56. The shaving blade unit of claim 55, wherein the leading portion is substantially unsupported along its length.

57. The shaving blade unit of claim 55, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to deflect upon contact with a user's skin.

205 58. The shaving blade unit of claim 55, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to conform to a contour of the user's skin during shaving.

210 59. The shaving blade unit of claim 55, wherein the leading portion has a first thickness adjacent the side surfaces of the housing, and tapers to a second, lesser thickness adjacent a center region of the guard

60. The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein thickness of the elastomeric member varies along the guard axis.

215 61. The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the housing is connected to a pivoting structure to permit the one or more blades to pivot with respect to a handle.

62. The shaving blade unit of claim 34, wherein the elastomeric member forms a projection extending from at least one of the side surfaces.

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63. The shaving blade unit of claim 34 further comprising a trimming assembly connected to the housing.

225 64. The shaving blade unit of claim 63, wherein the trimming assembly comprises a trimming blade.

65. A shaving blade unit comprising
a plastic housing having a front portion and a rear portion and two side surfaces
extending from the front portion to the rear portion, the housing having a length
230 extending from one side surface to the other side surface and a width perpendicular to the length,

one or more shaving blades between the front portion and the rear portion, the one or more blades having a blade length extending along respective one or more parallel blade axes, and

235 a guard including an elastomeric member carried by the housing at the front portion of the housing and extending along a guard axis that is parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the guard having a width perpendicular to the guard axis extending beyond the width of the housing.

240 66. The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein the elastomeric member has a length along the guard axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.

67. The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein the elastomeric member extends over at least one of the side surfaces.

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68. The shaving blade unit of claim 67, wherein the elastomeric member forms a projection extending from at least one of the side surfaces.

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69. The shaving blade unit of claim 63, wherein the elastomeric member includes an elastomeric fin.

70. The shaving blade unit of claim 69, wherein the fin extends along a fin axis that is generally parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, the fin having a length along the fin axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.

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71. The shaving blade unit of claim 69, wherein the fin is made of a material having a Shore A hardness between about 28 and 60.

72. The shaving blade unit of claim 67, wherein the elastomeric member includes multiple elastomeric fins.

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73. The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein the fins are arranged in parallel rows, the fins extending along respective fin axes that are parallel to the respective one or more blade axes, at least some of the fins having a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

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74. The shaving blade unit of claim 73, wherein all of the fins have a length along an associated fin axis that is longer than the blade length.

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75. The shaving blade unit of claim 73, wherein the fins have graduated lengths.

76. The shaving blade unit of claim 75, wherein the fins closest to the blades have a length that is longer than the blade length, and the fin length decreases as distance
275 from the blades increases.

77. The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein at least some of the fins have tips having increasing elevation with respect to a plane passing through an associated cutting edge of the one or more shaving blades in going from fins further from the one or
280 more shaving blades to fins closer to the blades.

78. The shaving blade unit of claim 77, wherein at least some of the fins have tips above the plane, and some of the fins have tips below the plane.

285 79. The shaving blade unit of claim 78, wherein others of the fins have tips of generally uniform position relative to the plane.

80. The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein the fins have converging surfaces having an included angle of between about 8 and 14 degrees.

290 81. The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein a distance from a first fin to a last fin is between about 4 mm.

82. The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein the fins have tips of a height
295 between about 0.4 and 0.9 mm.

83. The shaving blade unit of claim 72, wherein the elastomeric member includes at least about 10 fins.

300 84. The shaving blade unit of claim 83, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 15 fins.

85. The shaving blade unit of claim 83, wherein the elastomeric member includes about 20 fins.

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86. The shaving blade unit of claim 65, further comprising a clip for retaining the one or more shaving blades, the clip being threaded through an opening positioned between the front and rear portions of the housing.

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87. The shaving blade unit of claim 86, wherein first and second ends of the clip are threaded through respective first and second openings in the housing.

88. The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein the elastomeric member is flexible.

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89. The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein a leading portion of the elastomeric member is substantially unsupported along its length.

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90. The shaving blade unit of claim 89, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to deflect upon contact with a user's skin.

91. The shaving blade unit of claim 89, wherein the leading portion is sufficiently flexible to conform to a contour of the user's skin during shaving.

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92. The shaving blade unit of claim 89, wherein the leading portion has a first thickness adjacent the side surfaces of the housing, and tapers to a second, lesser thickness adjacent a center region of the guard

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93. The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein thickness of the elastomeric member varies along the guard axis.

94. The shaving blade unit of claim 65, wherein the housing is connected to a pivoting structure to permit the one or more blades to pivot with respect to a handle.

335 95. The shaving blade unit of claim 65 further comprising a trimming
assembly connected to the housing.

 96. The shaving blade unit of claim 95, wherein the trimming assembly
comprises a trimming blade.

340 97. The shaving blade unit of claim 1, 34 or 65, wherein the elastomeric
member includes one or more fins extending along a fin axis parallel to the blade axes
and within a frame defined by the elastomeric member.

345 98. The shaving blade unit of claim 97, wherein the elastomeric member
defines a groove positioned between the frame and the fins, the frame separating ends of
the one or more fins from the frame.

 99. A shaving razor comprising:
350 a handle; and
 a shaving cartridge including connection structure connecting the cartridge to the
handle, the shaving cartridge comprising

 a plastic housing having a front portion and a rear portion and two side
surfaces extending from the front portion to the rear portion, the housing having a
355 length extending from one side surface to the other side surface,

 one or more shaving blades positioned between the front portion and the
rear portion, the one or more blades having a blade length extending along
respective one or more parallel blade axes, and

 a guard at the front portion of the housing, the guard including an
360 elastomeric member that extends along a guard axis that is parallel to the
respective one or more blade axes, the elastomeric member having a length along
the guard axis that is greater than or equal to the blade length.

365 100. The shaving razor of claim 99, wherein the shaving cartridge is permanently connected to the handle.

 101. The shaving razor of claim 99, wherein the shaving cartridge is removably connected to the handle by the connection structure.